HOKO/PYSHT RIVER CED RETROFIT

MAY 3, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The Hoko/Pysht River retrofit site is along State Route (SR) 112 between Port Angeles and Neah Bay in Clallam County. SR 112 is a main transit route for local, commercial, and tourist traffic.

THE CED PROBLEM

Along the Hoko and Pysht Rivers, SR 112 encroaches on either the floodway or channel migration zone. SR 112 is susceptible to flooding and erosion, which has resulted in repeated road closures and emergency repairs. The most significant threat to SR 112 is bank erosion, which can result in loss of the road prism. In some areas where this has occurred. WSDOT has implemented bank protection measures to ensure the integrity and safety of the highway for public use. However, these actions have resulted in chronic environmental impacts to aquatic and riparian habitat.

FISH UTILIZATION & HABITAT AVAILABILITY

The Hoko and Pysht River systems support Chinook, chum, coho, and steelhead. The Chinook stock is considered depressed within the river systems. The chum stock in the Pysht is healthy, but the status is unknown in the Hoko. Both the coho and steelhead stocks are healthy.

ONGOING WORK

A Site and Reach Assessment is currently being conducted by Herrera and WSDOT, and the Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines (http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/ispgdoc.htm) concepts will be used to address the overall project objectives. It is anticipated that the outcome of the project will result in meeting the necessary requirements to protect SR

112 and provide environmental enhancements to these reaches of the rivers. WSDOT is working with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT), Makah Tribe and other stakeholders (e.g., Merrill and Ring, Inc.) to develop self-mitigating flood and bank protection measures that will safeguard SR 112 while also enhancing riparian and aquatic habitat.